

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KABUL 04094 201252Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8103
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L 4094

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: SHUM, AF
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH NEW AFGHAN MINISTER OF JUSTICE ABOUT
HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: KABUL 4070

1. I MET WITH JUSTICE MINISTER SHARAEI SATURDAY AFTERNOON,
MAY 20. I TOLD HIM THAT I HAD BEEN PLEASED TO READ IN THE
NEWSPAPER HIS GOVERNMENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE WOMEN AND
CHILDREN WHO HAD BEEN ARRESTED SINCE THE APRIL 27 "REVOLU-
TION" WOULD BE TREATED KINDLY.

2. SHARAEI AT FIRST SEEMED TO THINK I WAS TALKING ABOUT
OTHER WOMEN AND CHILDREN WHO HAD BEEN IN PRISON BEFORE
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APRIL 27. HE WENT TO SOME LENGTH TO DESCRIBE TO ME THE
TERRIBLE CONDITIONS IN AFGHAN PRISONS UNDER DAUD, AND
SOME OF THE MEASURES THE NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD BE TAKING
TO ALLEVIATE THESE CONDITIONS AND RELEASE OLD AND SICK
PRISONERS. WHEN HE FINALLY REALIZED WHAT I WAS TALKING
ABOUT, HE SEEMED PLEASED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENT
HAD REGISTERED WITH US. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THESE

WOMEN AND CHILDREN HAD BEEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY TO SAVE THEM FROM THE WRATH OF THE PEOPLE OF AFGHANISTAN AGAINST THE PREVIOUS REGIME. HE SAID THAT THEY WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SAFE IF THEY HAD STAYED IN THEIR OWN HOMES, AND THAT THEY ARE NOW BEING PROVIDED WITH THE SAME COMFORTS THEY WOULD HAVE IN THEIR OWN HOMES. HE IMPLIED THAT THEY WOULD, IN DUE COURSE, BE RELEASED.

3. COMMENT: WE HAVE INDEED HEARD ALREADY OF ONE (AS YET UNCONFIRMED) RELEASE OF A MEMBER OF THE GHAZI FAMILY, A SISTER OF THE FORMER HEAD OF THE AFGHAN AIR AUTHORITY. I THINK WE HAVE DONE ALL WE SHOULD DO NOW TO HELP THESE WOMEN AND CHILDREN, PENDING ANY REPORTS WE MIGHT GET ABOUT A DETERIORATION OF THEIR POSITION. IF OTHER COUNTRIES, SUCH AS THOSE APPROACHED ON THE DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS, WISH ALSO TO SAY SOMETHING ALONG THE LINES OF WHAT I SAID TO THE JUSTICE MINISTER, IT CAN DO NO HARM, AND MAY EVEN DO SOME GOOD IN THE SENSE THAT WE WOULD NOT BE ALONG OR OUT IN FRONT.
ELIOT

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